

Message Text

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45

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AGR-10 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 AID-05 CIEP-02 SS-15 STR-04

ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01

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R 131355Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4520

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USDEL MTN GENEVA

UNCLAS LONDON 12698

PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR UK

SUBJECT: REVISION OF ESTIMATES OF DROUGHT IMPACT ON UK
GRAIN PRODUCTION

REF: LONDON 12626

1. IN LONDON 12626 A TENTATIVE ESTIMATE OF UK GRAIN
PRODUCTION THIS YEAR WAS GIVEN OF 14.6 MILLION TONS. IN
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THE LIGHT OF MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE PRESS RELEASE AND

FURTHER CONVERSATIONS WITH THE GRAIN TRADE AND USERS THIS NOW APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN TOO OPTIMISTIC. MINISTRY NOW SAYS WHEAT YIELD WILL BE "LOWER THAN LAST YEAR" AND SAY THAT BARLEY YIELD WILL BE MUCH THE SAME. ASSESSMENT IS STILL VERY DIFFICULT IN THE ABSENCE OF AREA FIGURES AND THE BARLEY SITUATION IS FAR FROM CLEAR.

2. NEVERTHELESS, WE WOULD NOW SAY THAT TOTAL GRAIN PRODUCTION WILL BE AROUND 14.1 MILLION TONS OF WHICH WHEAT - 5.13, BARLEY - 8.10, OATS, MIXED GRAINS AND RYE REMAIN THE SAME AS IN LONDON 12626.

3. CUT IN ESTIMATE OF WHEAT AND BARLEY CROP LIKELY TO REDUCE GRAIN USE IN ANIMAL FEED TO AROUND 12.50 MILLION TONS UNLESS CORN IMPORTS ADJUST STILL FURTHER UPWARDS. GRAIN USERS HERE, HOWEVER, ARE SOMEWHAT ALARMED BY 6 PERCENT REDUCTION IN US AUGUST 1 CORN PRODUCTION FORECAST COMPARED WITH JULY 1 AND ALLIED WITH UNCERTAINTY ABOUT STERLING LATER THIS YEAR ARE LESS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT IMPORT PRICES OF US CORN THAN THEY WERE.

ARMSTRONG

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